



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN  
EDUCATION FUND**

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May 27, 2009

To: Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaign Reform  
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform and Housing

Re: Support of Impartial Justice and Special Interest Electioneering Disclosure bills

The League appreciates very much this chance to communicate our support of full public financing of Supreme Court elections (SB 40, AB 65) and full disclosure of the sources of funds for all campaign communication and media activities (SB 43, AB 63).

It has been more than 30 years since our state membership agreed upon the positions from which we support these bills, and such reform has been a League action priority all this time. We concluded in 1977 that adequate public financing for campaigns allows all candidates and issues equitable access to the electorate, without reliance on personal wealth or excessive special interest support or threat of such by opponents or independent committees. This Impartial Justice bill guarantees the funds with cost-of-living adjustments, and it provides, if necessary, supplemental funds to counter unlimited spenders. The provision of supplemental funds should completely eliminate the latter. The bill also adequately increases spending limits, while reducing contribution limits and their built-in advantage for monied special interests.

The Special Interest Electioneering Disclosure bill, SB 43/AB 63, effectively brings those claiming to produce doing "issue ads" while referencing candidates positively or negatively during campaigns into the regulations for independent spenders. While speech should not be restricted, the electorate has a right to know the funding sources of these campaign activities.

Passage of these two bills would once again allow Wisconsin citizens to have confidence in the electoral process behind our elected officials. We dare to hope that these bills will be promptly enacted this year.

Thank you.